

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1756

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TAGS: CVIS, CSCE, RO

SUBJ: VISA FACILITATION

REF: STATE 090516 & BUCHAREST 3404

1. ON JULY 13, 1977, THE EMBASSY RECEIVED GOR RESPONSE TO ITS VARIOUS PROPOSALS ON DIPLOMATIC/OFFICIAL AND OTHER KINDS OF VISA FACILITATION (REFTELS). INFORMAL TRANSLATION FOLLOWS:

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ROMANIA PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND HAS THE HONOR TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE EMBASSY'S NOTES NR. PS 7-2/1403 AND PS 7-2/1401 OF MAY 1977 AND TO COMMUNICATE ITS CONSENT, ON THE BASIS OF THE PROPOSALS OF THE AMERICAN SIDE, TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE GRANTING ON A BASIS OF RECIPROCITY OF NON-IMMIGRANT VISAS.

IN VIEW OF DEVELOPING THE BI-LATERAL ROMANIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS, THE ROMANIAN SIDE AGREES TO GRANT AMERICAN CITIZENS, AS IT DID BEFORE, UNILATERALLY THE FOLLOWING FACILITIES REGARDING NON-IMMIGRANT VISAS:

- MEMBERS OF OFFICIAL DELEGATIONS, PARTICIPANTS IN CONGRESSES, CONFERENCES, SYMPOSIUMS OR INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS AS WELL AS THOSE COMING TO THE

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MISSION, PERMANENTLY OR TEMPORARILY, TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WITH RESIDENCE IN ROMANIA, WILL BE GRANTED VISAS UPON REQUEST WITHOUT ANY FORMALITIES (NO APPLICATION FORMS, NO PHOTOS);

- VISAS FOR BUSINESS OR PRIVATE TRIPS, DISREGARDING THE TYPE OF PASSPORT, WILL BE GRANTED UPON REQUEST AND WITHOUT ANY FORMALITIES (NO APPLICATION FORMS,

NO PHOTOS);

- TOURIST VISAS AND TRANSIT VISAS, NO MATTER WHAT TYPE OF PASSPORT, WILL BE GRANTED UPON REQUEST, AT ANY DIPLOMATIC MISSION OF ROMANIA OR ANY ROMANIAN CONSULAR OFFICE, AT THE BORDER POINTS OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ROMANIA AS WELL, OPEN TO THE TRAFFIC OF PASSENGERS AND WITHOUT ANY FORMALITIES (NO APPLICATION FORMS, NO PHOTOS).

THE ROMANIAN SIDE WOULD WELCOME THE IDEA IF, IN THE SPIRIT OF THE GOOD RELATIONS EXISTING BETWEEN THE TWO STATES, IN THE NEAR FUTURE, ROMANIAN CITIZENS BENEFIT FROM SIMILAR FACILITIES WHEN TRAVELING TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ROMANIA REQUESTS THAT THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA INCLUDE ALL THE PROPOSALS OF THE AMERICAN SIDE IN A SINGLE NOTE, WHICH TOGETHER WITH THE ROMANIAN "NOTE VERBALE" IN RESPONSE, WILL CONSTITUTE THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES REGARDING THE FACILITATION OF NON-IMMIGRANT VISAS.

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ROMANIA AVAILS ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

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2. COMMENTS: MFA HAS USED OCCASION OF OUR SPECIFIC NOTES RELATING TO VISA ISSUANCE AND VALIDITY TO REITERATE GENERAL PITCH--OFT-REPEATED DURING PERIOD OF HELSINKI REVIEW--THAT ALL VISA REQUIREMENTS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES BE ABOLISHED. BLANKET GOR RESPONSE CENTERS SOLELY ON QUESTION OF ISSUANCE, WHERE GOR ALREADY ISSUES TEMPORARY VISAS ON DEMAND AT BORDER (WITH EXCEPTION OF DIPLOMATS PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED TO MISSION). GOR NOTE FAILED, HOWEVER, TO ADDRESS TWO PROBLEMS OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO US: UNWARRANTED DELAYS IN ISSUANCE OF VISAS TO US DIPLOMATS PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED TO ROMANIA; AND EXTENDING VALIDITY AND GRANTING MULTIPLE ENTRIES IN B-1, B-2, AND C-1 VISAS CASES. EMBOFFS HAVE MADE IT ABUNDANTLY CLEAR ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS TO MFA CONSULAR DIRECTORATE THAT, FOR US, VISA ISSUANCE IS A MATTER OF LEGISLATION, NOT STATE DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION, AND THAT NEITHER DEPARTMENT NOR EMBASSY HAS UNILATERAL AUTHORITY TO WIPE OUT ENTRY VISA REQUIREMENTS. EMBASSY INTENDS TO RESUBMIT TO MFA ITS VISA FACILITATION PROPOSALS ALONG WITH CLEARLY WORDED STATEMENT THAT THESE ARE ONLY QUESTIONS THAT WE ARE AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS WITH

GOR AT PRESENT TIME AND THAT GOR RESPONSE WOULD BE
APPRECIATED ON THESE POINTS. WE WILL ALSO LEAVE DOOR
AJAR TO EXTENT THAT SHOULD PRESENTLY TABLED PROPOSALS
BE SATISFACORILY DEALT WITH, WE WOULD OF COURSE BE
WILLING IN FUTURE TO ENTERTAIN WHATEVER SPECIFIC
FACILITATION PROPOSALS GOR MIGHT WISH TO RAISE.
DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO THE ABOVE WOULD BE WELCOMED.
VIETS

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